

S. 260 is strongly supported by the Bush administration to States, private landowners and wildlife conservation organizations. The Partners Program has been a huge success, and we should ensure that this innovative program will flourish in the future.

I urge an "aye" vote on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we support this legislation that will provide a statutory authorization for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. This popular program facilitates cooperation between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and non-Federal organizations to voluntarily protect, conserve and restore habitat important to fish and wildlife.

It is our understanding that this legislation ratifies the existing administrative program, and that the service will implement the act under its existing regulations. I urge Members to support S. 260.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 260, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act, which was introduced in the Senate by my friend and fellow Oklahoman, Senator INHOFE.

I would like to thank some of the people that work on the staff, Nathan Richmond and the famous Ryan Jackson on the Public Works Committee for all their support. The bill is supported by 34 different sportsmen and conservation groups.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Fisheries and Oceans Subcommittee Chairman GILCHREST and House Resources Chairman POMBO, for their consideration and leadership on this bill. I was proud to introduce companion legislation, H.R. 2018, in the House last year.

Senate bill 260 will authorize the popular Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. The Partners Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to voluntarily restore wetlands and other fish and wildlife habitat on their own land.

With more than 80 percent of the fish and wildlife in the United States on private lands, S. 260 is needed to encourage public-private landowners in Oklahoma and around our Nation to enter into agreements with the Federal Government to conserve valuable natural habitat and wildlife.

Since 1987, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has operated the Partners Program as a separate line item under the President's budget, subjecting these funds to reprogramming within the Fish and Wildlife Services.

Senate bill 260 authorizes up to \$75 million through fiscal year 2011 to

allow this successful program to stabilize and expand. Given that thousands of landowners are eager to participate in the Partners Program, Senate bill 260 couldn't come at a better time.

As a sportsman, I believe that it is our responsibility to protect and preserve our natural resources. There are few things I enjoy more than fishing with my kids, and we owe our future generations the same opportunity.

Most people think that wildlife conservation and the rights of private landholders are a naturally combative force and are mutually exclusive. The Partners Program is a shining example of how we can protect wildlife and the property of individuals at the same time.

The simple fact is the future of our natural resources depends on the conservation of habitat, the successful management of wildlife, and the control of invasive species on private land. Passage of S. 260 today is critical to ensure its continued success.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 260.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CITY OF OXNARD WATER RECYCLING AND DESALINATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2334) to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities for the GREAT project to reclaim, reuse, and treat impaired waters water in the area of Oxnard, California, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2334

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "City of Oxnard Water Recycling and Desalination Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. OXNARD, CALIFORNIA, WATER RECLAMATION, REUSE, AND TREATMENT PROJECT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (title XVI of Public Law 102–575; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. ____ OXNARD, CALIFORNIA, WATER RECLAMATION, REUSE, AND TREATMENT PROJECT.

“(a) *AUTHORIZATION.*—The Secretary, in cooperation with the City of Oxnard, California,

may participate in the design, planning, and construction of Phase I permanent facilities for the GREAT project to reclaim, reuse, and treat impaired water in the area of Oxnard, California.

“(b) *COST SHARE.*—The Federal share of the costs of the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost.

“(c) *LIMITATION.*—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the following:

“(1) The operations and maintenance of the project described in subsection (a).

“(2) The construction, operations, and maintenance of the visitor's center related to the project described in subsection (a).

“(d) *SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.*—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this section.”.

(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of sections in section 2 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 is amended by inserting after the last item the following:

“Sec. ____ Oxnard, California, water reclamation, reuse, and treatment project.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise their remarks and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2334, sponsored by Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS, authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in a water recycling and desalting project with the city of Oxnard, California.

As water demands grow and supplies become more scarce in southern California, this bill will help provide regional water supply solutions to the Oxnard Plain. Using an innovative recycling and groundwater injection system, this program will provide many regional benefits and is designed to help meet the city's water supply needs through the year 2030. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2334, legislation sponsored by the gentlewoman from California, LOIS CAPPS.

With almost no assistance from the Federal Government, the city of Oxnard is making significant improvements to its municipal water system. A key part of their project, called the GREAT project, is to stretch local water supplies with new projects for desalting and water recycling. Especially in our western States, projects

like this can help cities protect themselves from drought and reduce the need to import water from distant reservoirs. H.R. 2334 will make a very modest amount of Federal financial help available to help construct this project.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2334.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California, LOIS CAPPS.

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, my hope is that I can explain and demonstrate sufficiently the enthusiasm for this legislation by my constituents in the city of Oxnard. I rise in support of H.R. 2334, and it is called the Oxnard Water Recycling and Desalination Act.

First I want to thank Chairman POMBO and Ranking Member RAHALL for their support of this measure. I also want to thank the subcommittee chairman, Mr. RADANOVICH, and Ranking Member NAPOLITANO and their staffs for the key role in the bill's passage.

H.R. 2334 authorizes a regional water resources project. It is named the Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment Act, or, as the initials will summarize to, it is the GREAT program, and it is great in many ways, located in my congressional district.

Oxnard, California, as so many communities today, are faced with the difficult task of providing reliable and safe drinking water for their customers. The city of Oxnard has taken this situation and worked on it. It is one of California's fastest growing cities. The water needs of the city's agricultural users has exceeded its local water resources. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy and the region, but at the same time many people are moving to the area.

Now, consequently, over 50 percent of its water has had to be imported from outside sources. Recognizing these challenges, Oxnard developed the GREAT program to address its long-term water needs, and as my colleague, Mr. KILDEE from Michigan illustrated, the city itself and the surrounding areas grappled with this issue themselves, recognizing that they needed to be creative and come up with a solution that would meet their needs.

This GREAT program includes a new regional groundwater desalination facility to serve potable water customers in the city of Oxnard. It includes a recycled water system to include agricultural water users and an added protection against seawater intrusion.

Finally, it includes a wetlands restoration component that reuses the discharges from the groundwater desalination and recycled groundwater treatment facilities. It is a full-circle opportunity to take every advantage of the water supplies that are there to enhance them and even to reuse them.

Implementation of this GREAT program will provide many significant re-

gional benefits. It will reduce the consumption of groundwater for agricultural and industrial purposes. It will cut imported delivery water requirements, and it will improve local reliability of high-quality water deliveries. It will also add enormously to the restoration of the wetlands in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this Resources Committee for trying to find innovative and effective ways of extending water supplies in the West.

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In my view, the City of Oxnard Water and Desalination Act offers such a creative solution.

Again, I thank the Committee on Resources for supporting this bill, and I urge its immediate passage.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2334, the City of Oxnard Water Recycling and Desalination Act.

First, I want to thank my colleagues from California, the chairman of the Resources Committee, Mr. POMBO, the chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Water and Power, Mr. RADANOVICH and Ms. NAPOLITANO, as well as the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. RAHALL, for expediting the consideration of this legislation and for bringing H.R. 2334 before us today.

H.R. 2334 would authorize a proposed regional water resources project—the Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment or GREAT Program—located in my congressional district.

As you know, many communities today are faced with the difficult task of providing reliable and safe water to their customers. The city of Oxnard is no exception.

Oxnard is one the California's fastest growing cities and is facing an ever growing crisis: It's running out of affordable water. The water needs for the city's agricultural and industrial base, together with its growing population, has exceeded its local water resources. Consequently, over 50 percent of its water has to be imported from outside sources.

However, through a series of local, State and Federal restrictions the amount of imported water available to the city is shrinking, while the cost of that water is rising. Recognizing these challenges, Oxnard developed the GREAT Program to address its long term water needs.

The GREAT Program elements include: a new regional groundwater desalination facility to serve potable water customers in Oxnard and adjacent communities; a recycled water system to serve agricultural water users, and added protection against seawater intrusion and saltwater contamination; and a wetlands restoration and enhancement component that efficiently reuses the brine discharges from both the groundwater desalination and recycled water treatment facilities.

Implementation of the GREAT Program will provide many significant regional benefits.

First, the new desalination component will serve ratepayers in Oxnard and adjacent communities, guaranteeing sufficient water supplies for the area.

Second, Oxnard's current water infrastructure delivers approximately 30 million gallons of treated wastewater per day to an ocean outfall. The GREAT Program will utilize the resource currently wasted to the ocean and treat

it so that it can be reused by the agricultural water users in the area.

During the non-growing season, it will inject the resources into to the groundwater to serve as a barrier against seawater intrusion and saltwater contamination. To alleviate severely depressed groundwater levels, this component also includes pumping groundwater into the aquifer to enhance groundwater recharge.

Finally, the brine produced as a by-product of the desalination and recycling plants will provide a year-round supply of nutrient rich water to the existing wetlands at Ormond Beach.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Resources Committee for trying to find innovative and effective ways of extending water supplies in the West. In my view, the city of Oxnard Water Recycling and Desalination Act offers such a creative solution. It will reduce the consumption of groundwater for agricultural and industrial purposes, cut imported water delivery requirements, and improve local reliability of high quality water deliveries.

Again, I would like to thank the Committee on Resources for supporting this bill, and urge its immediate passage.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2334, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "a bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities for the GREAT project to reclaim, reuse, and treat impaired waters in the area of Oxnard, California."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2832) to reauthorize and improve the program authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2832

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2006".

SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS; MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.

(a) GRANTS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.—Section 14321(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—